

CONFIDENTIAL Return to CIA LibraryF20
260

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1A

COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany REPORT NO. [REDACTED]TOPIC Military Information from Potsdam

25X1C

EVALUATION [REDACTED] (except as noted) [REDACTED]

25X1C

DATE OF CONTENT 19 March to 16 April 1950

25X1X

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 15 May 1950

25X1A

REFERENCES [REDACTED]PAGES 5 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]REMARKS [REDACTED]

25X1C

SOURCE [REDACTED]

1. The six guns which had left the Delius Kaserne, Potsdam (N 55/Z 63), on 15 March 1950 returned to the barracks on 22 March 1950. The guns were subsequently cleaned (1). Six other 172-mm guns, towed by caterpillar tractors, left the barracks on 23 March 1950. The guns were going to Altengrabow (M 53/Z 00). [REDACTED]

25X1

(2).

2. AAA units, each with 20 to 30 canvas-covered AA guns, left the Hohenlohe Kaserne and the Ludendorff Kaserne on 21, 22 and 23 March 1950. All units headed along Tschudistrasse. (3)

3. On 24 March 1950 the Nedlitzer Holz (woods) opposite the Delius Kaserne, the Hohenlohe Kaserne and the Ludendorff Kaserne, was cordoned off by engineer troops wearing black epaulets and equipped with carbines or submachine guns and gas masks with hoses. Six rail-type rocket launchers, about 40 trucks, 80 special motor vehicles loaded with pontoons and 40 large amphibious cars were observed. The trucks and the special vehicles had [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED] the Delius Kaserne engineer unit which, however, did not leave its barracks on that day and which was not observed to be equipped with pontoon-carrying vehicles. Local residents said that the engineer troops staying in the Nedlitzer Holz came from Koenigswald. The troops left toward Potsdam-Biche, via Amundsenstrasse, at about 11 a.m. (4).

CONFIDENTIAL~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 18 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the

Approved For Release 2006/01/30 : CIA-RDP82-00457R005100490019-5

Next Review Date: 2008

Document No.

No Change in Class.

Class. Changed to:

Auth: 187 20-7

Date: 12 JUL 1978

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved For Release 2006/01/30 : CIA-RDP82-00457R005100490010-5

25X1A

SECRET-CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

2

25X1

4. About sixty 172-mm guns were stored in the Wildpark artillery park on 23 March 1950 according to [redacted] Some of the guns, with the barrels elevated perpendicularly, were stored in the woods, as the garages in the artillery park were not capable of storing all of them. (5)

5. a. Eight prime movers towing 172-mm guns, four trucks, one field kitchen and 100 troops of the Delius Kaserne artillery unit left on 30 March 1950. Before leaving, the troops were issued new uniforms and submachine guns. The unit left for Altengrabow where a division would allegedly be activated, according to [redacted] (2)

25X1

b. 200 beds were set up on the upper floor of the small club building on 5 April 1950. Soviet soldiers said that recruits were due to arrive. One hundred and fifty infantrymen of the 1931 and 1932 classes, including 20 Ukrainian Poles and 10 Czechs, arrived on 11 April 1950. They were quartered in the club building and underwent artillery training. (6)

[redacted] personnel of the 1925 and 1926 classes would be discharged. The soldiers due for discharge were issued new uniforms without collar patches and epaulets. Groups of 20 to 30 men were awakened at night and, an hour later, left by truck for Wildpark where they were assembled and entrained for Frankfurt/Oder via Oranienburg. In Frankfurt/Oder they were dispatched for the Soviet Union for demobilization. They may keep their newly issued uniforms. For the trip to the Soviet Union, each soldier was provisioned with 10 kg of flour, 2 loaves of bread, one can of meat and 1 kg of lard. The soldiers complained that they were allowed only very little baggage, as contrary with the officers. Their German currency was exchanged for rubles. (7)

25X1

d. Lt Col Chudtarikov was assigned to the headquarters of the artillery unit. Sen Lt Kushnir, who spoke German fluently, was political officer and Sen Lt Yemoferrri the new supply officer of the artillery unit. (8)

e. All officers of the artillery unit, up to and including majors, were observed at pistol aiming drill on 12 April 1950. [redacted] the officers go through the drill every day.

25X1

f. About 15 trucks towing canvas-covered light AA guns, 15 half-track prime movers towing canvas-covered heavy AA guns and about 15 trucks occupied by 15 to 20 soldiers each and towing two steaming field kitchens left the Delius Kaserne on 3 April 1950. [redacted]

25X1

[redacted] the unit went to Altengrabow and would stay there for a long time. He said that only half of the troops stationed in the barracks had remained. (3)

SECRET-CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY
CONFIDENTIAL

~~SECRET~~-CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

3

- 25X1C 6. A Soviet officer and a German laborer went to the Wildpark equipment depot on [redacted] 15 April 1950. The depot gate was guarded by a soldier wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, who ordered the truck to stop at the guardhouse. The officer went into the depot and, after about half an hour, returned with two soldiers who pulled a cart loaded with two 120x60x50-cm boxes weighing about 75 kg. The boxes allegedly contained gun sights.

[redacted]

Back in the Delius Kaserne, the officer had the boxes moved into the armory which was off limits to German personnel.

25X1

7. Krampnitz Kavallerie Schule

The asphalt and even the granite pavement of Friedrich Ebertstrasse bore the marks of track-laying vehicles on 24 March 1950. Source, followed the tracks which turned into a cross-country road about 1 km before the village of Fahrland and led toward the Kavallerie Schule. Source observed impressions of about 15 track-laying vehicles. Shortly afterward source saw about 60 soldiers with shovels and pickaxes who obliterated the tracks and reinforced the road with rubbish.

About 100 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia had fallen in at the guardhouse of the Kavallerie Schule. Five groups of about 30 men each were seen at close-order drill in the barracks yard. The troops in the barracks were estimated at 500. (9)

8. The Nordbruecke (northern bridge) across the Havel River (Lehnitzsee and Weissensee) was being broadened. The stone arches of the bridge had been completed by 19 March 1950. Ten-meter-long and 1½-meter high T-girders were laid across.
9. The substructure of the Suedbruecke (southern bridge) had been completed by 19 March 1950. One section of the bridge was finished and was soon to be opened to traffic. The date set for the completion of the bridge, allegedly 1 May 1950, will apparently not be met. (10)
10. a. A convoy of 12 trucks, coming from the direction of Werder, proceeded toward Doeberitz on 2 April 1950. Each truck was loaded with a sheet-metal box from which a small propeller projected (resembling the propeller of an automobile motor). Source believed the boxes to be charging units. The trucks were followed by seven jeeps, each occupied by a driver and a soldier wearing black epaulets.

~~SECRET~~-CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY**CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved For Release 2006/01/30 : CIA-RDP82-00457R005100490010-5
~~SECRET~~-CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1A

4

25X1C

11. A train carrying 47 [] motor vehicles passed through the Babelsberg railroad station on 31 March 1950 and proceeded toward Magdeburg.

25X1

25X1C

12. Offizier Akademie on Ernst Thaelmannstrasse

Gate guards wore black epaulets on 24 March 1950. A cantonment building with a 12-meter radio mast, allegedly a medium radio station, was seen in the yard. (11)

13. Seven trucks, each occupied by about 20 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and towing AT guns of about 70 mm caliber, moved along Friedrich Ebertstrasse toward Nedlitz on 22 March 1950. Trucks []

25X1C

25X1C

[] were identified. Four tank trucks, in-

25X1C

[] moved along Alleestrasse toward Stalinallee on 23 March 1950.

25X1C

14. Forty troops at aiming and loading practice with three guns of about 180mm caliber were seen near the radio tower opposite the General Wever Kasernen on 27 March 1950. (12)

25X1C

15. Radio trucks [] coming from the direction of Babelsberg, moved along Babelsbergerstrasse, heading toward Potsdam, on 27 March 1950.

16. Ten trucks, each occupied by 20 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and armed with carbines, were observed at the Potsdam Stern, moving toward Stahnsdorf, on 2 April 1950. The trucks had four-

25X1C

17. Fifteen 183-mm guns and 15 prime movers were entrained at the Wildpark railroad station on 30 March 1950. The departure of the train was not observed. (2)

18. Ten trucks observed at the Potsdam railroad station on 6 April 1950 left toward Stahnsdorf and turned into the street leading to the former Dr. Sinn Sanatorium. Four of the trucks were occupied by 20 men each, wearing green caps and green epaulets and having six Alsatian dogs with them on each truck. The six other trucks were loaded with billeting equipment. (13)

19. About 150 unarmed soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets were seen marching along Friedrich Ebertstrasse toward the railroad station on 15 April 1950. The troops wore well-preserved coats with shiny buttons.

~~SECRET~~-CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

CONFIDENTIAL

~~SECRET~~-CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

5

20. Generalsviertel (Generals' quarters)

Three houses of Grosse Weinmeisterstrasse were cleared of German tenants and surrounded with a high board fence on 11 April 1950. Soviet dependents had to leave their houses on Kleine Weinmeisterstrasse and Hessestrasse and move to Babelsberg. German and Soviet families living at 1 through 6 Persiusstrasse had to vacate their apartments to make room for families arriving from Karlshorst. The entire block was to be surrounded by a board fence.

25X1C

Comment:

(1) The guns had allegedly been in Jueterbog for record firing (14). The ? No Arty Regt of the 30th Gds Gun Arty Brig, which is stationed in the Delius Kaserne, did some record firing in Jueterbog before 15 March 1950.

(2) The first troops to go to Altengrabow, presumably for record firing, left on 23 March 1950. More troops followed on 30 March 1950. They may have been entrained at the Wildpark railroad station. [redacted] that a division was going to be activated in the Altengrabow area appears incredible. It is believed that the Potsdam units of the 30th Gds Gun Arty Brig (from the Delius Kaserne and the General Wever Kaserne) systematically went to Altengrabow for firing practice as they did in 1949.

25X1

(3) The information confirms the location in the Potsdam-Nedlitz Hohenlohe Kaserne and Ludendorff Kaserne of component units of the 2d Gds AAA Div. The alleged transfer of AAA units from these barracks to Altengrabow for a long time indicates that the division is to hold its 1950 maneuvers there. The 2d Gds AAA Div held its 1949 maneuvers at the Letzling Heath, together with all other AAA units stationed in the Soviet Zone of Germany. As there have not yet been any indications that AAA units moved to the Letzling Heath, it is considered possible that the 1950 AA firing practice will be held at Altengrabow.

25X1C

25X1C

25X1C

(4) [redacted]

25X1

25X1

it is believed that, contrary to source's opinion, the engineer exercise in Nedlitz Holz was conducted by the Delius Kaserne engineer unit. The units stationed in the barracks in Potsdam-Biche and in Golm do not include an engineer unit.

~~SECRET~~-CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

06/01/30 : CIA-RDP82-00457R005100490010-5

~~SECRET~~ CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

8

(5) The report is the first to mention a Wildpark artillery park, which is probably used for storing the weapons and equipment of the Potsdam units of the 30th Gds Gun Arty Brig and the 2d AAA Div, as is indicated by the observation [REDACTED]

25X1C

25X1C

(6) All available information indicates that only men of the 1930 class and small contingents of the 1931 class are being inducted into the armed forces at present. The 1932 class is presumably not due for conscription.

(7) The data are given credence.

25X1

(b) Sen Lt Kushnir, political officer, may be the Gds Lt Kushnir whom a May 1946 newspaper mentioned as assigned to an artillery unit in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

25X1

(9) Most of the units stationed in the Krampnitz Kavallerie Schule allegedly left for an unidentified destination in late February 1950, leaving behind only about 300 troops, according to a previous report (15). The 248th Gds RL Bn of the 10th Gds Tank Div was still stationed in Krampnitz on 12 April 1950, according to a previous report on rail movements (16). [REDACTED] troops with artillery insignia confirmed this information.

25X1

(10) It is known from previous information that all war-wrecked bridges in the Berlin area were to be speedily repaired in the Spring of 1950.

(11) An Offizier Akademie in Potsdam is unknown. As Ernst Thaelmannstrasse is in Babelsberg, it is considered possible that the so-called academy may be in the restricted area of Babelsberg.

(12) The former General Wever Kaserne is occupied by artillery units, presumably by a ? No Gun Arty Regt of the 30th Gds Gun Arty Brig [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

(13) A Soviet hospital (Kaitmazov Economy) moved from Ernst Thaelmannstrasse, Babelsberg, to the Dr. Sinn Sanatorium in mid-February 1950.

(14)
(15)
(16)

25X1A

~~SECRET~~ CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

CONFIDENTIAL